

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 AGR-20 SWF-02 SP-03 AID-20 NSC-07

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /184 W

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R 080933Z APR 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1621

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, CH

SUBJECT: TCK WHEAT SMUT PROBLEM

REF: STATE 054117

1. DESPITE REPEATED EFFORTS, USLO HAS BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN AN APPOINTMENT TO FOLLOW UP DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMMEL'S MARCH 20 MEETING WITH PRCLO ON THE TCK WHEAT SMUT PROBLEM. ON RECEIPT OF THE REFTEL, WE NOTIFIED MFT THAT COMMERCIAL/ECONOMIC CHIEF HOROWITZ WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH MFT, OR, IF APPROPRIATE, THE CHINA NATIONAL CEREALS, OILS AND FOODSTUFFS IMPORT AND EXPORT CORPORATION (CEROILFOOD) OR THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY. OUR STATED PURPOSE WAS TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS FOR AN EXCHANGE OF AGRICULTURAL DELEGATIONS ON THE TCK SMUT PROBLEM WHICH HAD BEEN PUT FORWARD BY US GRAIN SUPPLIERS.

DESPITE SEVERAL REMINDERS ON OUR PART STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO THE PROBLEM, WE RECEIVED NO CONFIDENTIAL

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REPLY TO OUR REQUEST UNTIL APRIL 6. ON THAT DAY, MFT

INFORMED US THAT THE TCK ISSUE IS BEING DISCUSSED BY CEROILFOOD AND THE US SUPPLIERS CONCERNED AND THAT "A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IS BEING NEGOTIATED." SHOULD A MEETING WITH USLO BECOME NECESSARY, MFT SAID, IT WOULD CONTACT US.

3. COMMENT: THIS NEGATIVE "DON'T CALL US, WE'LL CALL YOU" ATTITUDE ON MFT'S PART PROBABLY REFLECTS CONTINUING PRC INTEREST IN KEEPING THE TCK PROBLEM IN COMMERCIAL CHANNELS; BUT IT MAY ALSO SIGNAL A CHINESE DECISION NOT TO RESPOND TO THE US SIDE'S PROPOSAL FOR AN EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS. HAVING WON THE FIRST ROUND IN THE TCK BATTLE BY GETTING THE US SUPPLIERS TO TAKE BACK THEIR WHEAT, THE CHINESE MAY BE DISINCLINED TOWARD FURTHER ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT IMPLY WILLINGNESS ON THEIR PART TO COMPROMISE. INSTEAD, CEROILFOOD MAY BE WAITING TO SEE WHAT THE SUPPLIERS' NEXT MOVE WILL BE, HOPING THAT SOMEHOW THE SUPPLIERS, WORKING WITH THE USDA, WILL FIND A WAY TO ENSURE THAT THEIR SHIPMENTS ARE TCK-FREE.

4. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO WHAT THE CURRENT THINGKING OF CARGILL, DREYFUS AND COOK IS WITH REGARD TO FURTHER SHIPMENTS. FOR THE MOMENT, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT ANY FURTHER USG APPROACHES TO THE PRC ON THE PROPOSAL FOR AN EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN WASHINGTON.

BRUCE

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